

3 energy spectrum produced by irradiating nucleic acids in said microorganisms at a wavelength
4 between 242-257 nm, comprising:

5 (a) contacting said sample with a medium comprising solid phase immobilized
6 antibodies which specifically bind to a characteristic cell surface antigen on said
7 microorganism to form an antigen-antibody complex, thereby immobilizing said
8 microorganism on said solid phase;

9 (b) irradiating the solid phase of step (a) with a laser light of 242-257 nm to produce
10 a resonance enhanced Raman backscattered energy spectrum; and

11 (c) comparing said induced spectrum of step (b) with said characteristic spectrum to
12 detect the presence of said microorganism in said sample.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the solid phase a step (a) is washed to remove
unbound sample and medium before the irradiating step (b).

11. The method of claim 9 wherein said characteristic spectrum is at 1498 cm^{-1} .

12. A system for the detecting the presence of a specific microorganism in a sample,
said microorganism having a characteristic resonance enhanced Raman backscattered energy
spectrum produced by irradiating nucleic acids in said microorganisms at a wavelength
between 242-257 nm, comprising:

(a) means for contacting said sample with a medium comprising solid phase
immobilized antibodies which specifically bind to a characteristic cell surface antigen on said
microorganism to form an antigen-antibody complex, thereby immobilizing said
microorganism on said solid phase;